

SiO<sub>2</sub> and not more than approximately 40 mass % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> dispersed in the matrix of the solidified steel.

8. The method of manufacturing austenitic stainless steel according to claim 4, further comprising the step of adding boron up to a max of 0.03 mass %, if the sulfur content is greater than 0.0030 mass %

9. The method of manufacturing austenitic stainless steel according to claim 4, further including the step of keeping the basicity of the slag preferably in a range of 1.4-3.0.

10. The method of manufacturing austenitic stainless steel according to claim 4, further comprising the step of achieving a composition preferably with a value of  $d \leq 0$  and  $a > 0$  where

$$d = 1.9 \text{ Ni} + 32\text{C} + 27\text{N} + 0.15(\text{Mn} + \text{Cu}) - 1.5\text{Cr} + 8.5 \text{ and}$$

$$a = \text{Ni} + 0.5\text{Cr} + 0.7 (\text{Mn} + \text{Cu}) - 18.$$

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the section heading beginning at page 15, line 1 with the following rewritten section heading:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A new austenitic stainless steel containing approximately 0.1-1.0 mass % of Si and not more than approximately 0.003 mass % of Al. Nonmetallic inclusions dispersed in a steel matrix are converted to MnO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> containing not less than approximately 15 mass % of SiO<sub>2</sub> and not more than approximately 40 mass % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. During steel making, molten steel is covered with basic slag and heavily deoxidized with a Si alloy whose Al content is controlled to not more than approximately 1.0 mass % in a vacuum or non-